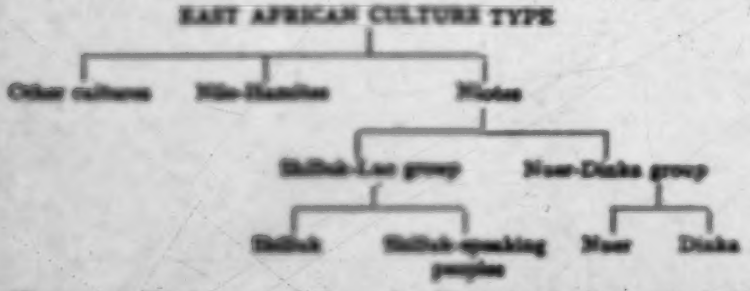
1: Evans-Pritchard E-5 (1931, 1936) 1940
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

II

I describe in this volume the ways in which a Nilotic people obtain their livelihood, and their political institutions. The information I collected about their domestic life will be published in a second volume.

The Nuer,[1] who call themselves *Naath* (sing. *raw*), are round about 200,000 souls and live in the swamps and open savannah that stretch on both sides of the Nile south of its junction with the Sobat and Bahr el Ghazal, and on both banks of these two tributaries. They are tall, long-limbed, and narrow-headed, as may be seen in the illustrations. Culturally they are similar to the Dinka, and the two peoples together form a subdivision of the Nilotic group, which occupies part of an East-African culture-area the characteristics and extent of which are at present ill-defined. A second Nilotic subdivision comprises the Shilluk and various peoples who speak languages similar to Shilluk (Luo, Anuak, Lango, &c.). Probably these Shilluk-speaking peoples are all more alike to one another than any one of them is to the Shilluk, though little is yet known about most of them. A tentative classification may be thus presented:



Nuer and Dinka are too much alike physically and their languages and customs are too similar for any doubt to arise about their common origin, though the history of their divergence is unknown. The problem is complicated: for example, the Atwot, to the west of the Nile, appear to be a Nuer tribe who have adopted many Dinka habits,[2] while the Jikany tribes of

[1] The word 'Nuer' is mentioned by a century of usage. It is probably of Dinka origin. I use it in singular and plural, speaking of 'a Nuer man' and of 'the Nuer people'.

[2] Passarge, *op. cit.*, p. 32. They appear as Abot in the map on p. 129.

2:Evans-Pritchard E-S (1931, 1936) 1951
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

•142
291
301
276

n. A [illegible] smoking pipe

[facing p. 90]

2:Evans-Pritchard E-S (1931, 1936) 1951
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

142
302

m. A youth. His hair is dressed with ochre

[following p. 48]

:Evans-Pritchard E-5 (1931, 1936) 1951
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

142
301

cr. Swedenborg

[Facing page 68]

2;Evans-Pritchard E-S (1931, 1936) 1951
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

●142
301

vi. A married woman, wearing skin
In the background a man plays on a harp

[Facing p. 112]

2:Evans-Pritchard E-5 (1931, 1936) 1951
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

142
301
201

VII. A youth singing in praise of his ox. His arms are raised in imitation of its horns

[Facing page 128]

8;Howell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

624
297
142

LEOPARD-SKIN CHIEF

[facing p. 64]

8:Howell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
F322 Nuer F322

694
•142

THE LITIGANT

[Facing p. 65]

8:Howell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
F322 Nuer F322

624
291
381
142

Photo by J. P. Hoe

THE CHIEF, KAC WEN WIETANG OF THE LAK NUER

[facing p. 80]

8:Howell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
F322 Howe F322

585
142
301
304

THE SHOW

[(cont.) p. 81]

Stillwell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
F322 Nuer F322

585
1942
387
B64

[facing p. 40]

8:Howell E, C-5 (1942-1944)1954
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

791
•142

MAN OF GOD, NEAR LOKICHOKIO (see p. xvi)

[facing p. 161]

8:Howell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

624
142

[facing p. 176]

8:Howell E, G-5 (1942-1944)1954
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

115
142
301

[facing p. 177]

14: Huffman M-5 (no date) 1931
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

with thin calves, are long, their hands and feet small. The skin is dark. Men with well-shaped features, thin lips, and noses with high bridges and narrow nostrils are not unfrequently met.

Most of the men are fierce, proud, and even haughty in aspect. The Nuer are essentially pastoral; some kind of farming is done, fishing and hunting are also common, but the only occupation worthy of a man is to look after his cattle. The attachment of a man to his cows and of a boy to the bull with which his father presents him may almost be called religious. The one real sport for men is fighting, or cattle raiding, which is practically the same thing. These predatory expeditions are carried on wherever opportunity offers and are a cause of constant friction among the tribes. In their folk-lore tales a favourite subject is the story of cattle fights.

The main groups of the Nuer and the districts in which they live are:[1]

Gaajok, Gaajak, Jekiang (Nasser District)	200,000
Lau (Akwong District)	100,000
Gawaar (Fashoda District)	30,000
Lak and Thiang (Zeraf Island, Fashoda District)	40,000
Western Nuer (Yirol District)	60,000

One group, the Arwot, have partly adopted Dinka as their language.

The Nuer houses lie close to large river systems, so that during the rains a large part of their country is a great swamp, the villages being mostly situated on ridges along the rivers. The chief vegetation is high grass, interspersed with single trees or groups of trees. The country on the upper Sobat, near or in Abyssinia, is however better wooded and has sparse forests.

[1] Cf. Report of the Relief Language Conference (1918, London 1918.